

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DHA-05
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /084 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8652

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4491

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJECT: SITHOLE ON TALKS WITH SMITH

1. IN AN AUGUST 29 INTERVIEW CARRIED IN TODAY'S SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS, SITHOLE SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO TALK TO SMITH AFTER TOMORROW'S GENERAL ELECTION. HE SAID HE WAS AWAITING ANNOUNCEMENT OF SMITH'S PLANS FOR A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT BEFORE PASSING HIS JUDGMENT ON THEM.

2. SITHOLE, HOWEVER, APPEARED TO RULE OUT JOINING A RHODESIAN FRONT GOVERNMENT. "WHAT WE WANT IS THAT VARIOUS PARTIES SHOULD COME TOGETHER AND NOMINATE THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT," HE SAID. "IF THE RHODESIAN FRONT NOMINATES MINISTERS, THEN THE MEMBERS BECOME
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RHODESIAN FRONT BOYS. WE ARE LEADERS IN OUR OWN RIGHT."

3. SITHOLE SAID HE WOULD ASK SMITH FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE "ALL THE NATIONALIST PARTIES INCLUDING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ANY CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION."

SITHOLE SAID HE DOUBTED WHETHER SMITH WAS INTERESTED IN MAKING ANY MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS. "I THINK HE WANTS A WHITE GOVERNMENT WITH BLACK FACES," SITHOLE SAID.

4. THE SAME ARTICLES QUOTE SMITH AS SAYING IN AN ELECTION MEETING IN SALISBURY AUGUST 29 THAT HE HOPES TO HAVE A NEW CONSTITUTION BY THE END OF THE YEAR, BUT IT WOULD TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS BEFORE IT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. SMITH REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE AS HE BELIEVED IN QUALIFIED FRANCHISE.

5. COMMENT: BOTH SMITH AND SITHOLE APPEAR TO BE POSITIONING THEMSELVES FOR HARD BARGAINING FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS. BOWDLER

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